TOPIC: Where are your Crown Jewels?

Every organization has a lifeblood; this can be described as the main activity that keeps the organization in business. Crown Jewels –the lifeblood, are critical systems (including the data) that keep the organization successful and competitive.

In the case of Public Sector organizations, crown jewels are usually the citizens' data and the systems that houses the data. An organization's Information (Security) Officers should be able to identify the organization's crown jewels with ease; this emphasizes the importance. Identification of crown jewels is relevant to determine the level of controls required to protect them and to target security controls around the jewels.

An inventory of key systems (or critical systems) is beneficial for an organization, it can be extremely useful in the case of an incident, shortening the time it will take to contain the incident.

At a hygiene level, a crown jewel inventory should contain a list of key systems, the data each system houses at a high-level (i.e. financial data, personal identifiable data or medical data), and integration with other systems. The level of sensitively can also be included in the inventory, rated as High, Medium, or Low. The classification of sensitively and confidentiality should be based on the organization's Information Security Classification (we will cover Information Security in a subsequent newsletter).

The most important control objective for this element, is to ensure the availability requirements for each critical system is documented and met. This essentially means that risks and security assessments should be conducted regularly on all critical systems and the controls protecting the systems should be adequate to mitigate the risks identified to an acceptable level.

Finally, ensure the critical systems & crown jewel inventory is stored in a secured location.

KEY EVENTS

▪ **Monthly Defensible Security Conference Call: August 8, 2018**
At the next conference call, we will discuss Security Roles & Responsibilities and Crown Jewels control areas of the DefSec framework.

▪ **BC Security Day: Nov 7, 2018**
The Province organizes and hosts two "Security Day" events each year (Spring and Fall), free of charge. Representatives from the broader public sector, school districts, post secondary institutions, municipalities, and crown corporations are encouraged to attend. Visit the Security Day *website for more information.*

▪ **20th Privacy and Security Conference: Feb 2019**
Held in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada this conference is a must attend. This three-day conference, is recognized as one of the top tier events in North America. Anyone working in the information privacy and security fields will benefit from the speakers, discussions, and networking at the conference. The conference draws an international audience of some 1,000 delegates with an interest in cutting edge policy, programs, law, research, and technologies aimed at the protection of privacy and security.